

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPEL HILL

The School of Medicine
Department of Surgery

August 22, 1960

Congressman Carl Durham
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Durham:

Although it may be that others share the responsibility of the situation in which Francis Powers and the United States now find themselves, following the trials in Moscow concerning the U-2 plane, it still seems to me we should investigate whether or not it is proper, as the newspaper says this morning, for Mr. Powers to continue to receive thirty thousand dollars a year during his imprisonment. The news went on to say that Mr. Powers feared that he would face prosecution on returning to this country, but that our country has assured him that he will not be tried. Is it possible that Mr. Powers had a guilty conscience? Is it not possible that our soft attitude will make it easy for others in our foreign service to defect to the Russians? Is it that important for this country to compete with the Russians along such lines of kindness toward this man? Out of the difficulty, the Russians obtained, relatively undamaged, a plane whose design they had not previously had; and the pilot put out an awful lot of information, which I understand is not necessary under the international code. Does this not make it easier for our fighters to become equally soft and ready to sacrifice their country for their skin at the moment? I am sure we have had greater heroes in the past.

If I am being too rash, then just disregard these ideas; but if you have a moment, I'd like to hear your ideas on the subject, since I am sure you know so much more of the details.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

STAT

NDF: shv